

The site of Roche Castle is shown here on the C19 1<sup>st</sup> edition O.S. map. It lies just west of Laugharne, in Broadway, behind the Carpenters Arms Inn.

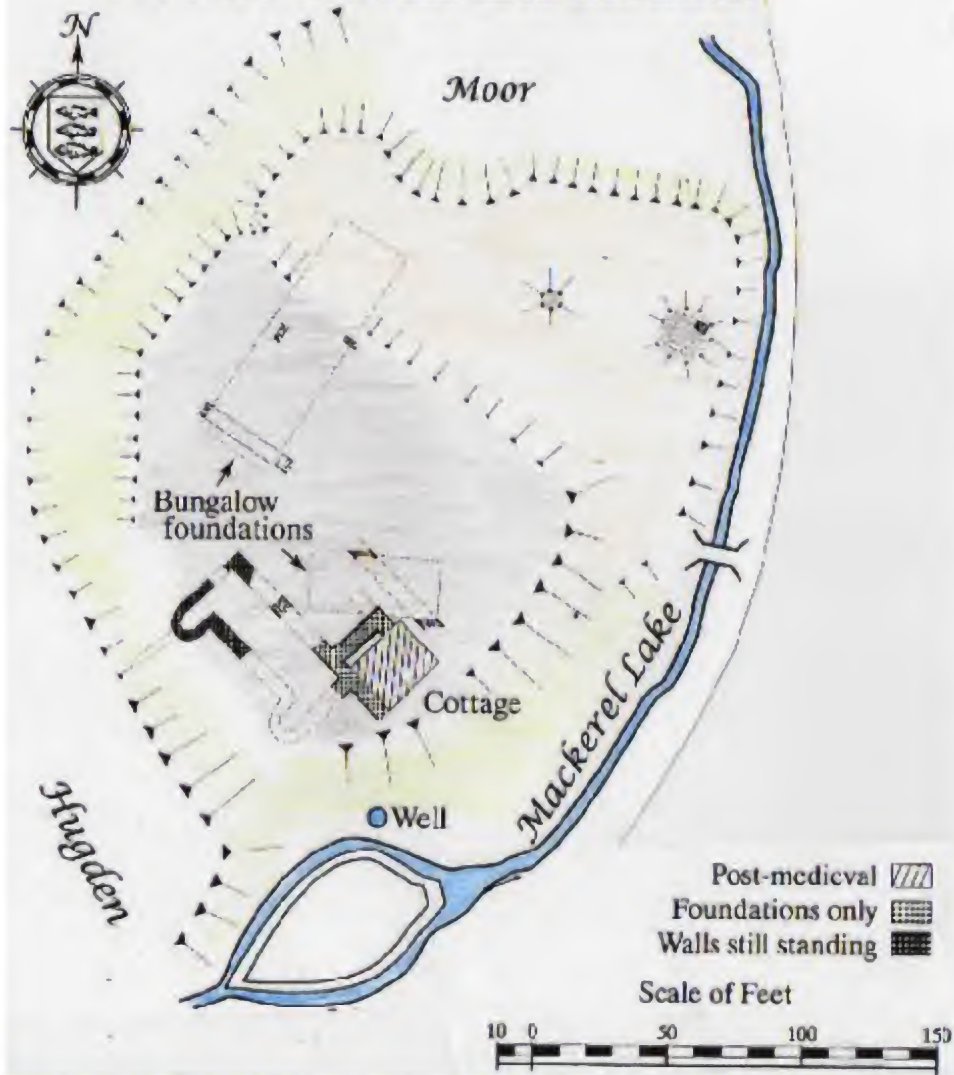




The main building stood on an artificially constructed platform (dark brown on the map). To the west and north of this platform a ditch (or moat) was cut (shaded green), whilst the eastern boundary was the stream ('Mackerel Lake'). To the northeast there was a lower platform with two raised mounds (dark brown), one of which bore a small square building.

Traces of other foundations indicate there were a number of buildings here and records show that one was a dovecote, in use in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century.

# ROCHE CASTLE LAUGHARNE







## A Sacring Bell

This small – just 5cm high by 5 cm wide - bronze Sacring Bell was found when excavating foundations for the westernmost bungalow.

Sacring Bells were rung in Catholic worship to draw attention to the moment when the 'host' (wafer), according to their belief, became the body of Christ.

This one shows wear from considerable use in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century. It can be viewed in Carmarthenshire Museum, Abergwili.



The buildings were abandoned long ago, and stone was robbed from them to build the earlier 17<sup>th</sup> Century Broadway mansion, and later again to build a cottage in the ruins, which was demolished in 1959.

Part of the arch shown here in Mary Curtis's drawing was pulled down about 1960.

The present owners, T & G Evans, are trying to preserve what remains, and reveal it by gradually removing its coating of ivy.



ROCHE CASTLE.  
At Broadway, Lougharne. See Part 4.

**Roche Castle – drawn by Mary Curtis  
c. 1870 showing the vaulted ground floor**